

WHO SHALL ANNEX HAWAII?

How the Question Appears to a Great Religious Paper.

The following is a leading article in the Chicago Advance:

The logic of events renders it almost certain that the autonomy of the Hawaiian Islands can not long be maintained. This is due to the conditions of society and the unusual mixture of the present population. The last census, that of 1890, amended by known additions during the two years past, shows in general, omitting small fractions, that there are on the group:

Hawaiians, including 6,000 half-castes	40,622
Of the Caucasian race, about one-third of whom are Americans, one-third Portuguese, and one-third mixed peoples, British, Germans, French, and others	20,000
Miscellaneous, including Islanders from other groups	3,000
Chinese	15,000
Japanese	20,000
Total of Population	97,622

At a glance it can be seen that a long term of years is required to produce homogeneity and efficiency of self-government among a people of such a mixture; whereas perhaps half of the people have not averaged a residence of twelve years on the Islands, the most of the Japanese, Chinese and Portuguese having come to the country within that time. The Chinese and Japanese, while generally law-abiding, have as yet crude ideas as to national self-government. The Portuguese are peaceable and measurably teachable, but are mostly illiterate Roman Catholics. The native Hawaiians, as also the above nationalities, in time will become self-governing citizens.

If the majority of the Islanders were of liberty-loving and intelligent Anglo-Saxon stock, it is conceivable that an independent republic might now be established and maintained for a time, but probably only for a short time.

There is no possibility that the ex-Queen or her niece will be called to reign. It is morally certain that only by foreign intervention can either of these be placed upon the throne.

In union is strength, and at this last decade of the century we see the tendency to accumulate power by union. United capital has dug the canal, has established the steam lines which bridge the ocean and circle the globe. United capital has spanned the continent with railroads. Union has made possible the great achievements of the age. In union is the secret power of the trust, which is a wider development than the usual corporation. The labor union gives power and influence to the working man. This same principle is fast shaping the government of the world. Small states are becoming integral parts of large empires. The islands of the world are fast becoming the possessions of the powers who by their commerce or their navies rule the ocean. Now that Madagascar is invaded by the French, what islands in the world, other than Hayti and the Hawaiian Islands, are left to self-government? None of any consequence.

And now the inevitable has come to Hawaii, and she asks to be annexed to the great nation of the nearest continent, that she may have assured peace and stable government. The question is not alone, Will the United States annex and in some form admit Hawaii to the union? The fact is that a country of such dimensions in this age of national acquisition will not long be permitted to stand alone. A single well-equipped ship of war entering the harbor of Honolulu can, at the will of her commander, dictate terms to the Government of the group. In other words, the nation, if entirely dependent upon her own resources, may in an hour be subjected to the dictation of any commander of a ship of war.

The autonomy of these islands has thus far been maintained by the mutual guarantee of two or three of the great nations of Christendom that they would respect the national life of the little kingdom. But times have changed. Within the past decade, England, Germany and the United States have jointly undertaken to govern or to prop the government of Samoa. Spain has seized the Caroline Islands and established a governor and a garrison on Ponape; Germany has taken possession of the Marshall Islands, and England of the Gilbert Islands, and to-day rumor says that Japan has taken the Pelew Islands. England, France, Germany, Spain, Japan and China have each ships of war capable of taking possession of the Hawaiian Islands at any time. Precedents innumerable and the example of the more powerful nations is at hand to lead the less powerful states to take possession of defenseless islands. The moral influence of a mutual understanding such as in the past fifty years has guaranteed to the youngest and smallest of nations an honored independence, will not now be sufficient to restrain all nations that have a few of the dogs of war lying idle in their ports.

The Japanese Government is not indifferent to the interests of her sons who have gone to distant shores. About one-third of the able-bodied men who to-day tread Hawaiian soil are Japanese. Within the past twenty years the Japanese have taken possession of the Loo Choo islands lying 300 miles south of her, and of the Bonin Islands 500 miles southeast from Yokohama, and now she has plans for the Caroline, or the Pelew islands, much further distant. To-day Japan has in Honolulu harbor the Naniwa, an iron-clad larger than the United States cruiser Boston.

If the United States Government says to Hawaii, "We do not wish you; we have land enough and have no use for your rocky little islands, take care of yourselves"; one of two alternatives must follow, annexation by England or by Japan. If neither America nor England will annex these islands that lie central to the North Pacific ocean, and are already on the highway of four ocean steamer lines, Japan is quite

(Concluded on Fourth Page.)

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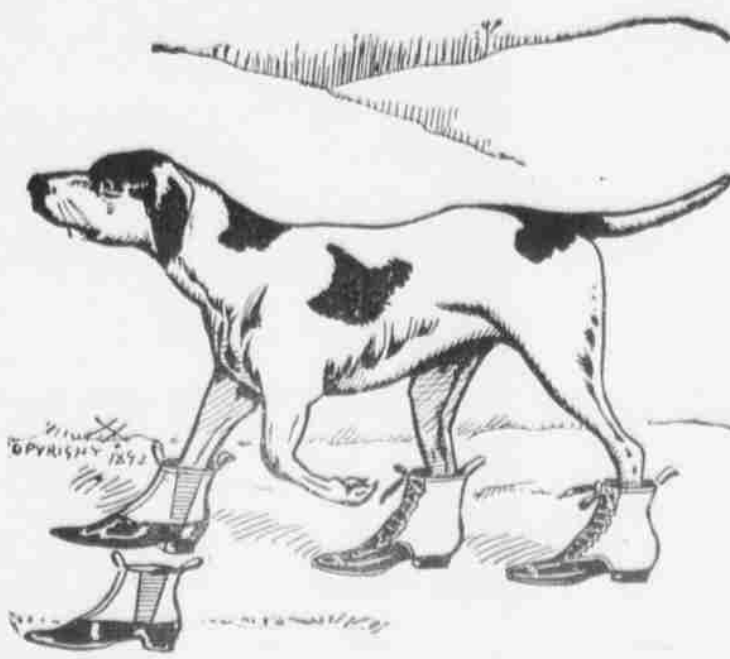
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